
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 832

AN ACT CONCERNING FAMILY ASSESSMENT CASES.

SUMMARY:

This bill extends the expungement process for unsubstantiated cases of abuse and neglect to family assessment response cases. It requires the Department of Children and Families' (DCF) to seal family assessment case records, but it allows agency employees to access them to properly discharge their job duties. It requires the commissioner to destroy the case files five years after DCF completes its investigation if the department has not received another report of abuse or neglect involving the family. But if a family has more than one unsubstantiated report within this period, DCF must keep the records for five years from the date it completed the most recent investigation.

The bill also renames the DCF "differential response" program as the "family assessment response" program. Under this program, when DCF receives a report of child abuse and neglect and determines that the case presents a lower risk, it can make referrals to appropriate community providers for family assessment and services after taking certain steps.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013

COMMITTEE ACTION

Children Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 12 Nay 0 (02/28/2013)